Guidelines for the functioning of the CBFC

90. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to review the existing guidelines, laid down in 1983, for the functioning of the Central Board of Film Certification so as to bring them in tune with the post-satellite television and internet operations and also to give greater autonomy to the Board for its effective independent functioning;

(b) if so, the specific areas of guidelines identified for amendment; and

(c) the steps taken to ascertain the views of the concerned interests in the film industry, leading artists and others and the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has informed that the Board has constituted a Core Committee to consider the suggestions received from a cross-section of people, including those related to films, as well as the guidelines prevalent in some other countries, and make recommendations for amendment to the Cinematograph Act, the rules made thereunder and the certification guidelines. No proposal has, however, been received by the Government from CBFC so far.

Review of FDI in print media

91. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering review of FDI in print media;

(b) if so, the reasons and the details thereof; and

(c) the limit of FDI's share in print media and their role in the decision taking?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The Government has decided

to allow Foreign Direct Investment upto 26% in Indian entities publishing newspapers and periodicals dealing in news and current affairs. It has also been decided to allow Indian editions of foreign scientific, technical and speciality magazines/periodicals/journals and foreign investment upto 74% in Indian entities publishing scientific, technical and speciality magazines/periodicals/ journals.

Ordinance to regulate the working of Cable TV Network

92. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued an ordinance to regulate the working of Cable Television Network in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to safeguard the interests of the cable viewers who have been threatened by the cable operators with a hefty hike in the cable charges with immediate effect?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government has introduced the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2002 to enable mandating of an addressable system for viewing of pay channels through cable networks. The system when mandated, will allow the consumer to choose and pay for the channel(s) that he wishes to watch.

Adult-oriented advertisements on TV channels

93. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are many advertisements running on various TV channels that are adult-oriented and obscene for the Indian society;

(b) the action Government propose to take against TV channels that are showing such commercials; and